General Assembly

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 91 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.1)*]

58/197. International trade and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/182 of 20 December 2000, 56/178 of 21 December 2001 and 57/235 of 20 December 2002 on international trade and development,

Recalling also the Plan of Action adopted at the tenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in Bangkok from 12 to 19 February 2000,[1]

Reaffirming the role of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development as focal point within the United Nations for the integrated treatment of trade and development and the interrelated issues in the areas of finance, technology, investment and sustainable development,

Recalling the provisions of the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] pertaining to trade and related development issues, as well as the outcomes of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002,[3] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,[4]

Recalling also its resolutions 57/250 of 20 December 2002 and 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, in which it invited the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, as well as the Trade and Development Board, to contribute, within its mandate, to the implementation and to the review of the progress made in the implementation of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and invited the President of the Trade and Development Board to present the outcomes of such reviews to the Economic and Social Council,

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[1] TD/390, part II.

[2] See resolution 55/2.

[3] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[4] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, and resolution 2, annex.

Taking note of the report of the Meeting of Eminent Persons on Commodity Issues, held in Geneva on 22 and 23 September 2003,[5] and expressing appreciation for the work of the eminent persons,

Recalling that, to benefit fully from trade, which in many cases is the single most important external source of development financing, the establishment and the enhancement of appropriate institutions and policies in developing countries, as well as in countries with economies in transition, are needed and that, in this context, enhanced market access, balanced rules and well-targeted, sustainably financed technical assistance and capacity-building programmes for developing countries also play important roles,

Noting the significant contribution of the multilateral trading system to economic growth, development and employment and the importance of maintaining the process of reform and liberalization of trade policies, as well as the importance of rejecting the use of protectionism, so that the system plays its full part in promoting recovery, growth and development, in particular of developing countries, bearing in mind paragraph 10 of resolution 55/182,

Recognizing with concern that the benefits from global economic prosperity and trade liberalization have not fully accrued to all developing countries,

Recognizing that a number of developing countries have undertaken significant trade and investment liberalization unilaterally, regionally and/or multilaterally, both within and outside the context of structural adjustment programmes,

Reaffirming the urgency, subject to national legislation, of recognizing the rights of local and indigenous communities that are holders of traditional knowledge, innovations and practices and, with the approval and involvement of the holders of such knowledge, innovations and practices, of developing and implementing benefit-sharing mechanisms on mutually-agreed terms for the use of such knowledge, innovations and practices,

Recognizing that countries must take appropriate and necessary security measures, but also underlining the importance of taking these measures in the manner that is least disruptive of normal trade and related practices,

Taking note of the in-depth review undertaken by the Trade and Development Board at its fiftieth session with respect to developments and issues in the post-Doha work programme of particular concern to developing countries, including the outcome of the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Cancún, Mexico, from 10 to 14 September 2003,[6] and its contribution to an understanding of the actions required to help developing countries secure beneficial and meaningful integration into the multilateral trading system and the global economy and to achieve a balanced, development-oriented and successful conclusion of the Doha negotiations,

Taking note also of the report of the Trade and Development Board[7] and the report of the Secretary-General,[8]

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[5] A/58/401.

[6] See A/58/15 (Part V), chap. II, sect. B. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 15.*

[7] A/58/15 (Parts I-V). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 15.*

[8] A/58/414.

Noting the proposals made to implement the work programme of the World Trade Organization, including those to liberalize international agricultural and non-agricultural trade,

Underlining the development potential of a balanced outcome of the negotiations under the Doha work programme, which reflects the interests of all World Trade Organization members, particularly the developing countries,

1. *Reaffirms* the great importance of promoting the objectives set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[2] of ensuring an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system in pursuit of economic growth and development, fairness and a level playing field as well as human development and poverty eradication goals, and reiterates its commitment to achieving those objective :

2. *Reiterates* the ommitment made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held in Doha from 9 to 14 November 2001, to place development at the heart of the Doha work programme and to continue to make positive efforts to ensure that developing countries, especially the least developed among them, secure a share in the growth of world trade commensurate with the needs of their economic development;[9]

3. *Expresses its concern* about the insufficient progress in the Doha negotiations, especially in areas of interest to developing countries, as manifested, inter alia, by missed deadlines in relation to special and differential treatment, implementation-related issues and concerns and modalities for agricultural negotiations;

4. *Also expresses its concern* about the setback at the Fifth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization,[6] and stresses the importance of redoubling efforts in working towards a successful, timely and development-oriented conclusion of the Doha negotiations no later than 1 January 2005 as set out in the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization ("Doha Ministerial Declaration");[10]

5. *Further expresses its concern* about the adverse consequences that the setback of the Fifth Ministerial Conference may have for the multilateral trading system, including a possible surge in protectionist measures;

6. *Expresses its concern* about the adoption of a number of unilateral actions that are not consistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization, harm the exports of all countries, in particular those of developing countries, and have a considerable bearing on the ongoing World Trade Organization negotiations and on the achievement and further enhancement of the development dimension of the trade negotiations;

7. *Considers* that the political will and commitment of World Trade Organization members to address the unresolved questions under the Doha work programme promptly and fully and to focus on the key development issues are essential for bringing the negotiations back on track;

8. *Underscores* the need for concerted political will and efforts to address the challenges of globalization, including by improving market access and market

[9] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[10] Ibid., annex, para. 45.

entry for the export products of particular interest to developing countries so that they can benefit more from the globalization process;

9. *Recognizes* that it is important for developing countries and countries with economies in transition to consider reducing trade barriers among themselves;

10. *Stresses* the importance of an open, transparent, inclusive and democratic process and of procedures for the effective functioning of the multilateral trading system that allow for internal transparency and the effective participation of members, including in the decision-making process, and that enable them to have their vital interests duly reflected in the outcome of trade negotiations;

11. *Also stresses* the need to place the interests and concerns of developing countries at the heart of the Doha work programme and to revive faith in it, and, in this regard, calls upon members of the World Trade Organization to engage in negotiations with a renewed sense of urgency and purpose and to redouble their efforts to achieve a successful outcome of the Doha work programme, including on the following issues of particular interest to the developing countries:

(*a*) The expeditious and appropriate resolution of outstanding implementation issues, consistent with paragraph 12 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration;

(*b*) The completion of the review of all provisions relating to special and differential treatment with a view to strengthening them and making them more precise, effective and operational, recognizing the importance of paragraph 12.1 (i) of the decision on implementation-related issues and concerns of 14 November 2001, adopted by the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization;[11]

(*c*) Substantial improvements in market access, the reduction of, with a view to phasing out, all forms of export subsidies, substantial reductions in trade-distorting domestic support in agriculture and the expeditious adoption of appropriate modalities for reduction commitments in agriculture negotiations, with operationally effective special and differential treatment and non-trade concerns being taken into account, in accordance with paragraphs 13 and 14 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration;

(*d*) Abusive application of anti-dumping, sanitary and phytosanitary standards and other trade-distorting measures;

(*e*) The positive consideration of trade-related issues pertaining to the commodity sector in the multilateral trading system;

(*f*) An effective solution to address the problems reflected in the sectoral initiative in favour of cotton proposed by a group of African countries within the context of negotiations on agriculture under the Doha work programme;

(*g*) Negotiations on trade in services conducted with a view to promoting the economic growth of all trading partners and the development of developing countries and the least developed countries, without a priori exclusion of any service sector or mode of supply and with special attention given to sectors and modes of supply of export interest to developing countries, recognizing the work already undertaken in the negotiations and the large number of proposals submitted by

[11] WT/MIN(01)/17. Available on the Internet at http://docsonline.wto.org.

members on a wide range of sectors and on several horizontal issues, as well as on the movement of natural persons;

(*h*) Appropriate modalities for reduction or elimination commitments in negotiations on market access for non-agricultural products, as provided for in paragraph 16 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, in particular on products of export interest to developing countries, and taking into account the special needs and interests of developing and least developed country participants, including through less than full reciprocity in reduction commitments;

(*i*) The review of the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights,[12] taking fully into account its development dimension;

(*j*) In accordance with paragraph 16 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, on market access for non-agricultural products, reduction or elimination of high tariffs, tariff peaks and tariff escalation, as well as non-tariff barriers, on those products, in particular on products of export interest to developing countries;

(*k*) The clarification and improvement of disciplines in the areas of anti-dumping, subsidies and countervailing measures, taking into account the needs of developing countries, including the least developed among them, while preserving the basic concepts, principles and effectiveness of those agreements and their instruments and objectives in non-agricultural market access;

(*l*) The examination, in the context of paragraphs 36 and 37 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, of the relationship between trade, debt and finance and between trade and transfer of technology, and possible recommendations thereon, taking into account their development dimension;

(*m*) Making the World Trade Organization operations more transparent, including through more effective and prompt dissemination of information;

12. *Recognizes* the crucial role that the expeditious implementation of World Trade Organization agreements and improved World Trade Organization rules, reflective of the development dimension of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, can play with regard to the development opportunities of developing countries and their capacity to integrate into the global economy;

13. *Takes note* of the provisions of the Doha Ministerial Declaration with respect to the relationship between trade and investment, the interaction between trade and competition policy, transparency in government procurement and trade facilitation;

14. *Reaffirms* that agriculture remains a fundamental and key sector for the overwhelming majority of developing countries, and stresses the importance of a successful conclusion of the Doha work programme in this regard;

15. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to the full and faithful implementation of the Agreement on Textiles and Clothing,[12] and calls for further progress in its implementation, which is a necessary and inherent condition of full implementation of the agreements arising from the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations;

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[12] See *Legal Instruments Embodying the Results of the Uruguay Round of Multilateral Trade Negotiations, done at Marrakesh on 15 April 1994* (GATT secretariat publication, Sales No. GATT/1994-7).

16. *Further reaffirms* that preferences granted to developing countries, pursuant to the "enabling clause",[13] should be generalized, non-reciprocal and non-discriminatory;

17. *Reaffirms* the need for the implementation of paragraph 4 of the Marrakesh Ministerial Decision on Measures Concerning the Possible Negative Effects of the Reform Programme on Least Developed and Net Food-importing Developing Countries;[12]

18. *Welcomes* the decision adopted by the General Council of the World Trade Organization on the implementation of paragraph 6 of the Doha Declaration on the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights and Public Health[14] to address the problems faced by countries with insufficient or no manufacturing capacity in the pharmaceutical sector in accessing medicines at affordable prices when combating serious public health problems afflicting many developing and least developed countries, especially those resulting from HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria and other epidemics, and invites all members to work towards an expeditious and permanent solution to the issue by, inter alia, amending the Agreement on Trade-related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights within the agreed time frame, to ensure that the solution will be simple to use, sustainable, predictable and legally secure;

19. *Emphasizes* that bilateral and regional trade arrangements should contribute to the multilateral trading system, and in this context stresses the importance of clarifying and improving disciplines and procedures under the existing provisions of the World Trade Organization applying to regional trade agreements in accordance with paragraph 29 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration, taking into account the implications of those agreements for development, and urges the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, in accordance with its mandate, to provide technical inputs in this respect;

20. *Reaffirms* the commitments made at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, and at the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, held in Brussels from 14 to 20 May 2001,[15] in this regard calls upon developed countries that have not already done so to work towards the objective of duty-free, quota-free market access for all least developed country exports, and notes that the consideration of proposals for developing countries to contribute to improved market access for the least developed countries would also be helpful;

21. *Welcomes* the approval of the accession of Cambodia and Nepal to the World Trade Organization, stresses the importance of facilitating the accession of all developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, as well as countries with economies in transition, that apply for membership in the World Trade Organization, bearing in mind paragraph 21 of resolution 55/182 and subsequent developments, and calls for the effective and faithful application of the World Trade Organization guidelines on accession of the least developed countries;

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[13] Decision of the Contracting Parties of 28 November 1979 (L/4903). Available on the Internet at http://docsonline.wto.org.

[14] WT/L/540. Available on the Internet at http://docsonline.wto.org.

[15] See A/CONF.191/13.

22. *Invites* members of the international community to consider the interests of non-members of the World Trade Organization in the context of trade liberalization;

23. *Reaffirms* the commitment to actively pursue the work programme of the World Trade Organization with respect to addressing the trade-related issues and concerns affecting the fuller integration of countries with small, vulnerable economies into the multilateral trading system in a manner commensurate with their special circumstances and in support of their efforts towards sustainable development, in accordance with paragraph 35 of the Doha Ministerial Declaration;

24. *Acknowledges* the seriousness of the concerns expressed in the Almaty Programme of Action adopted at the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, held in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on 28 and 29 August 2003,[16] and stresses the need for the special problems and needs of landlocked developing countries, including those contained in paragraph 33 of the Programme of Action, as well as other relevant issues contained in the section on international trade and trade facilitation of the Programme of Action, to be effectively addressed by the relevant international organizations and donors in a multi-stakeholder approach;

25. *Notes* the health- and environment-related measures that have an impact on exports, stresses that the adoption or enforcement of any measures necessary to protect human, animal or plant life or health should not be applied in a manner that would constitute arbitrary or unjustified discrimination or a disguised restriction on international trade, and recognizes the importance of capacity-building support to enable developing countries to put in place measures that are appropriate and necessary for meeting standards consistent with those of the World Trade Organization;

26. *Encourages* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the World Trade Organization, the World Bank, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and other relevant international organizations to continue to cooperate on trade-related capacity-building in developing countries, including, as appropriate, under the Integrated Framework for Trade-related Technical Assistance to Least Developed Countries and the Joint Integrated Technical Assistance Programme;

27. *Requests* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to continue its work, within its mandate, on trade-related issues and policies, from the development perspective, including its contribution to the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[17] and notes its work on development benchmarks of the international trading system and trade negotiations;[18]

28. *Reiterates* the importance of supporting United Nations Conference on Trade and Development programmes of technical cooperation and capacity-building that assist developing countries, especially the least developed countries, countries

[16] A/CONF.202/3, annex I.

[17] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[18] See TD/B/50/8, sect. III.

with economies in transition and countries with small and vulnerable economies, in particular those programmes that support their participation in the Doha work programme, in accordance with the technical cooperation strategy of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

29. *Emphasizes* the importance of and invites Member States to support the activities of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and invites donors and other countries in a position to do so to continue to provide the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development with the resources necessary to effectively implement its technical cooperation activities by giving priority to longer-term sustainable activities, particularly through multi-year funding mechanisms and inter-divisional operations based on the thematic priorities set by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in its work programme;

30. *Takes note* of the substantive item of the provisional agenda of the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development,[19] to be held in São Paulo, Brazil, from 13 to 18 June 2004, entitled "Enhancing coherence between national development strategies and global economic processes towards economic growth and development, particularly of developing countries", and in this context stresses the importance of the role and mandate of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in collaboration with the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution and on developments in the multilateral trading system under the sub-item entitled "International trade and development".

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23 December 2003

[19] A/58/15 (Part V), annex II. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 15.*

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Agenda item 91 (*a*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.1)*]

58/198. Unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling the relevant principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Declaration on Principles of International Law concerning Friendly Relations and Cooperation among States in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations,[1] which states, inter alia, that no State may use or encourage the use of unilateral economic, political or any other type of measures to coerce another State in order to obtain from it the subordination of the exercise of its sovereign rights,

Bearing in mind the general principles governing the international trading system and trade policies for development contained in relevant resolutions, rules and provisions of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization,

Recalling its resolutions 44/215 of 22 December 1989, 46/210 of 20 December 1991, 48/168 of 21 December 1993, 50/96 of 20 December 1995, 52/181 of 18 December 1997, 54/200 of 22 December 1999 and 56/179 of 21 December 2001,

Gravely concerned that the use of unilateral coercive economic measures adversely affects the economy and development efforts of developing countries in particular and has a general negative impact on international economic cooperation and on worldwide efforts to move towards a non-discriminatory and open multilateral trading system,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

2. *Urges* the international community to adopt urgent and effective measures to eliminate the use of unilateral coercive economic measures against developing countries that are not authorized by relevant organs of the United Nations or are inconsistent with the principles of international law as set forth in the

[1] Resolution 2625 (XXV), annex.
[2] A/58/301.

Charter of the United Nations and that contravene the basic principles of the multilateral trading system;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to monitor the imposition of measures of this nature and to study the impact of such measures on the affected countries, including the impact on trade and development;

4. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

78th plenary meeting
23 December 2003

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 91 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.2)*]

58/199. Creation of a global culture of cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 57/239 of 20 December 2002 on the creation of a global culture of cybersecurity, 55/63 of 4 December 2000 and 56/121 of 19 December 2001 on establishing the legal basis for combating the criminal misuse of information technologies, and 53/70 of 4 December 1998, 54/49 of 1 December 1999, 55/28 of 20 November 2000, 56/19 of 29 November 2001 and 57/53 of 22 November 2002 on developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security,

Recognizing the growing importance of information technologies for the promotion of socio-economic development and the provision of essential goods and services, the conduct of business and the exchange of information for Governments, businesses, other organizations and individual users,

Noting the increasing links among most countries' critical infrastructures — such as those used for, inter alia, the generation, transmission and distribution of energy, air and maritime transport, banking and financial services, e-commerce, water supply, food distribution and public health — and the critical information infrastructures that increasingly interconnect and affect their operations,

Recognizing that each country will determine its own critical information infrastructures,

Recognizing also that this growing technological interdependence relies on a complex network of critical information infrastructure components,

Noting that, as a result of increasing interconnectivity, critical information infrastructures are now exposed to a growing number and a wider variety of threats and vulnerabilities that raise new security concerns,

Noting also that effective critical infrastructure protection includes, inter alia, identifying threats to and reducing the vulnerability of critical information infrastructures, minimizing damage and recovery time in the event of damage or attack, and identifying the cause of damage or the source of attack,

Recognizing that effective protection requires communication and cooperation nationally and internationally among all stakeholders and that national efforts should be supported by effective, substantive international and regional cooperation among stakeholders,

Recognizing also that gaps in access to and the use of information technologies by States can diminish the effectiveness of cooperation in combating the criminal misuse of information technology and in creating a global culture of cybersecurity, and noting the need to facilitate the transfer of information technologies, in particular to developing countries,

Recognizing further the importance of international cooperation for achieving cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures through the support of national efforts aimed at the enhancement of human capacity, increased learning and employment opportunities, improved public services and better quality of life by taking advantage of advanced, reliable and secure information and communication technologies and networks and by promoting universal access,

Noting the work of relevant international and regional organizations on enhancing the security of critical information infrastructures,

Recognizing that efforts to protect critical information infrastructures should be undertaken with due regard for applicable national laws concerning privacy protection and other relevant legislation,

1. *Takes note* of the elements set out in the annex to the present resolution for protecting critical information infrastructures;

2. *Invites* all relevant international organizations, including relevant United Nations bodies, to consider, as appropriate, inter alia, these elements for protecting critical information infrastructures in any future work on cybersecurity or critical infrastructure protection;

3. *Invites* Member States to consider, inter alia, these elements in developing their strategies for reducing risks to critical information infrastructures, in accordance with national laws and regulations;

4. *Invites* Member States and all relevant international organizations to take, inter alia, these elements and the need for critical information infrastructure protection into account in their preparations for the second phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, to be held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005;

5. *Encourages* Member States and relevant regional and international organizations that have developed strategies to deal with cybersecurity and the protection of critical information infrastructures to share their best practices and measures that could assist other Member States in their efforts to facilitate the achievement of cybersecurity;

6. *Stresses* the necessity for enhanced efforts to close the digital divide, to achieve universal access to information and communication technologies and to protect critical information infrastructures by facilitating the transfer of information technology and capacity-building, in particular to developing countries, especially the least developed countries, so that all States may benefit fully from information and communication technologies for their socio-economic development.

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23 December 2003

Annex

Elements for protecting critical information infrastructures

1. Have emergency warning networks regarding cyber-vulnerabilities, threats and incidents.

2. Raise awareness to facilitate stakeholders' understanding of the nature and extent of their critical information infrastructures and the role each must play in protecting them.

3. Examine infrastructures and identify interdependencies among them, thereby enhancing the protection of such infrastructures.

4. Promote partnerships among stakeholders, both public and private, to share and analyse critical infrastructure information in order to prevent, investigate and respond to damage to or attacks on such infrastructures.

5. Create and maintain crisis communication networks and test them to ensure that they will remain secure and stable in emergency situations.

6. Ensure that data availability policies take into account the need to protect critical information infrastructures.

7. Facilitate the tracing of attacks on critical information infrastructures and, where appropriate, the disclosure of tracing information to other States.

8. Conduct training and exercises to enhance response capabilities and to test continuity and contingency plans in the event of an information infrastructure attack and encourage stakeholders to engage in similar activities.

9. Have adequate substantive and procedural laws and trained personnel to enable States to investigate and prosecute attacks on critical information infrastructures and to coordinate such investigations with other States, as appropriate.

10. Engage in international cooperation, when appropriate, to secure critical information infrastructures, including by developing and coordinating emergency warning systems, sharing and analysing information regarding vulnerabilities, threats and incidents and coordinating investigations of attacks on such infrastructures in accordance with domestic laws.

11. Promote national and international research and development and encourage the application of security technologies that meet international standards.

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 91 (*b*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.2)*]

58/200. Science and technology for development

The General Assembly,

Recognizing the role that international cooperation on science and technology can play in addressing the technological gap and the digital divide between the North and the South,

Recognizing also the importance of North-South as well as South-South cooperation in the field of science and technology,

Recognizing further the vital role of new and emerging technologies in raising the productivity and competitiveness of nations and the need, inter alia, for capacity-building, measures promoting the transfer and diffusion of technologies to developing countries, and the promotion of private sector activities and public awareness of science and technology,

Reaffirming the need to enhance the science and technology activities of the organizations of the United Nations system and the role of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in providing policy guidance, in particular on issues of relevance to developing countries,

Recognizing the role of information and communication technologies in promoting development as an important step towards addressing the challenges of bridging the digital divide, and in this regard welcoming the convening of the first phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December 2003, and its second phase, to be held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005,

Welcoming the Commission's selection of the substantive theme "Promoting the application of science and technology to meet the development goals contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration", for its work during the intersessional period 2003-2004, as welcomed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2003/56 of 24 July 2003,

Noting with appreciation the Commission's work during its intersessional period 2001-2003 on its theme "Technology development and capacity-building for competitiveness in a digital society", in particular the information and communication technologies development indices, which serve as an important contribution to the preparation of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the impact of new biotechnologies, with particular attention to sustainable development, including food security, health and economic productivity,[1]

Taking note also of Economic and Social Council resolution 2003/56, in which the Council invited the Commission to interact closely with the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force to promote greater information exchange and coordination of activities in the field of information and communication technologies in order to contribute to the World Summit on the Information Society,

1. *Urges* the relevant bodies of the United Nations system engaged in biotechnology to work cooperatively so as to ensure that countries receive sound scientific information and practical advice to enable them to take advantage of these technologies, as appropriate, to promote economic growth and development;

2. *Takes note* of the proposal of the Secretary-General for an integrated framework for biotechnology development within the United Nations system, as contained in his report,[1] and requests him to report further on the status of coordination between the relevant organizations and bodies of the United Nations system with a view to strengthening the coordination of activities in the area of biotechnology, in particular in the promotion of biotechnology within the United Nations system;

3. *Also takes note* of the publication entitled *Information and Communication Technology Development Indices*,[2] and invites the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in collaboration with the Information and Communication Technologies Task Force and the International Telecommunication Union, to update that publication as part of its contribution to the World Summit on the Information Society, recalling General Assembly resolution 56/183 of 21 December 2001, in which the Assembly encouraged effective contributions from and the active participation of all relevant United Nations bodies;

4. *Calls upon* the Secretary-General to continue to ensure that the Commission and its secretariat within the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development are provided with the necessary resources to enable the Commission to better carry out its mandate;

5. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixtieth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution.

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23 December 2003

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[1] A/58/76.

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.D.14.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.3)*]

58/201. Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 56/180 of 21 December 2001, in which it requested the Secretary-General to convene in 2003 the international ministerial meeting now known as the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation, as well as its resolution 57/242 of 20 December 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation;[1]

2. *Expresses its deep appreciation* to the Government of Kazakhstan for hosting the International Ministerial Conference in Almaty on 28 and 29 August 2003;

3. *Endorses* the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries[2] and the Almaty Declaration,[3] adopted by the International Ministerial Conference;

4. *Calls* for full and effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action;

5. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session an item entitled "Specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial

[1] A/58/388.
[2] A/CONF.202/3, annex I.
[3] Ibid., annex II.

Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation";

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the progress made in the implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action.

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Fifty-eighth session
Agenda item 91 (*d*)

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.4)*]

58/202. International financial system and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 55/186 of 20 December 2000 and 56/181 of 21 December 2001, both entitled "Towards a strengthened and stable international financial architecture responsive to the priorities of growth and development, especially in developing countries, and to the promotion of economic and social equity", as well as its resolution 57/241 of 20 December 2002,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by the heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[1] its resolution 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, in which it endorsed the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"), adopted on 4 September 2002,[3]

Emphasizing that the international financial system should support sustainable development, sustained economic growth and poverty reduction while allowing for the coherent mobilization of all sources of financing for development, including the mobilization of domestic resources, international investment flows, official development assistance, external debt relief and an open, equitable, rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory global trading system,

Reiterating that success in meeting the objectives of development and poverty eradication depends on good governance within each country and at the international level, and stressing that sound economic policies, solid democratic institutions responsive to the needs of the people and improved infrastructure are the basis for sustained economic growth, poverty eradication and employment creation,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[3] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

Reiterating also the need to strengthen the leadership role of the United Nations in promoting development,

Welcoming the growing interaction between the United Nations and the international financial and trade institutions, consistent with the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations and in accordance with related agreements,[4]

Encouraging further progress on the issue of participation of developing countries in international economic decision-making and norm-setting processes, including those of the Bretton Woods institutions and other economic and financial institutions and ad hoc groupings, while welcoming the steps that have been taken with a view to strengthening the capacity of developing countries to participate effectively in the international financial institutions,

Recognizing the urgent need to enhance the coherence, governance and consistency of the international monetary, financial and trading systems, and the importance of ensuring their openness, fairness and inclusiveness in order to complement national development efforts to ensure sustained economic growth and the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[5]

2. *Recognizes* the increasing initial signs that economic activity is gradually strengthening in many economies, while noting with concern the unevenness of the recovery of the global economy, which challenges efforts of developing countries to eradicate poverty and ensure sustained economic growth, and stresses the importance of cooperative efforts by all countries and institutions to cope with risks of financial instability and ensure a strong and steady recovery;

3. *Invites* developed countries, in particular major industrialized economies, to take into account the effect of their macroeconomic policies on international growth and development;

4. *Recognizes* the concern about the fact that in 2002 developing countries as a whole made net outward transfers of financial resources for the sixth consecutive year, and underscores the need for measures, as appropriate, at the national and international levels to address this issue, while taking note of the efforts that have been made thus far to this end and of the fact that for some developing countries those transfers, at the present time, indicate positive developments in the trade balance, which are required, inter alia, for debt repayment and which allow for the purchase of foreign assets;

5. *Underlines* the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty reduction and the strengthening of their democratic systems, while reaffirming that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that national policies have the leading role in the development process;

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[4] Related agreements include the agreements of 15 April 1948 between the United Nations and the International Monetary Fund (United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 16, No. 108) and the United Nations and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (ibid., vol. 16, No. 109).

[5] A/58/369.

6. *Stresses* the importance of strong domestic institutions to promote business activities and financial stability for the achievement of growth and development, inter alia, through sound macroeconomic policies and policies aimed at strengthening the regulatory systems of the corporate, financial and banking sectors, and also stresses that international cooperation initiatives in those areas should encourage flows of capital to developing countries;

7. *Underlines* the importance of promoting international financial stability and sustainable growth, and welcomes the efforts undertaken to this end by the International Monetary Fund and the Financial Stability Forum, as well as the International Monetary and Financial Committee's consideration of ways to sharpen tools designed to promote international financial stability and enhance crisis prevention, including through an even-handed implementation of surveillance and a sharpening of surveillance on capital markets and systemically and regionally important countries, with a view, inter alia, to early identification of problems and risks and the fostering of appropriate policy responses; the provision of adequate precautionary support to deal with external crises; and further improvements in the transparency of macroeconomic data and statistical information on international capital flows;

8. *Reiterates* in this regard that measures to mitigate the impact of excessive volatility of short-term capital flows and to improve transparency of and information about financial flows are important and must be considered;

9. *Notes* the impact of financial crises and risks of contagion on developing countries and countries with economies in transition, regardless of their size, and underlines the need to ensure that the international financial institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, have a suitable array of financial facilities and resources to respond in a timely and appropriate way, in accordance with their policies, to such crises;

10. *Notes also* the importance of advancing current efforts to reform the international financial architecture, as envisaged in the Monterrey Consensus,[2] emphasizes that those efforts need to include the effective participation of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, and in this regard encourages the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to continue examining the issues of the voice and effective participation of those countries, as provided for in the communiqués of the International Monetary and Financial Committee and the Development Committee at their last meetings, held in Dubai on 21 and 22 September 2003, and looks forward to the consideration of a road map on the issue at their next meeting, in April 2004;

11. *Welcomes* the ongoing work of the International Monetary Fund on quotas, and notes the conclusion of the Fund's Twelfth General Review of Quotas, the report on which indicated the adequacy of the current level of Fund resources and the intention of the Executive Board, during the period of the Thirteenth General Review, to monitor closely and assess the adequacy of Fund resources, to consider measures to achieve a distribution of quotas that reflects developments in the world economy and to consider measures to strengthen the governance of the Fund;

12. *Emphasizes* that it is essential to ensure the effective and equitable participation of developing countries in the formulation of financial standards and codes, and underscores the need to ensure their implementation, on a voluntary and progressive basis, as a contribution to reducing vulnerability to financial crisis and contagion;

13. *Invites* the multilateral and regional development banks and development funds to continue to play a vital role in serving the development needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition, including through coordinated action, as appropriate, and stresses that strengthened regional development banks and subregional financial institutions add flexible financial support to national and regional development efforts, enhancing their ownership and overall efficiency, and are an essential source of knowledge and expertise for their developing country members;

14. *Calls upon* multilateral financial institutions, in providing policy advice and financial support to member countries, to work on the basis of nationally-owned reform and development strategies, to pay due regard to the special needs and implementing capacities of developing countries and countries with economies in transition and to minimize the negative impacts of the adjustment programmes on the vulnerable segments of society, while taking into account the importance of gender-sensitive employment and poverty eradication policies and strategies;

15. *Reiterates* the importance of the orderly resolution of sovereign debt crises, notes the increasing voluntary use of collective action clauses in international sovereign bonds, and takes note of the efforts led by sovereign debtors and private creditors to develop a voluntary code of conduct for the resolution of sovereign debt crises;

16. *Encourages* the efforts, including those of the Bretton Woods institutions, to improve the assessment of debt sustainability in low- and middle-income countries through, inter alia, the development of better tools to deal with exogenous shocks and the need to take country-specific factors into account;

17. *Also encourages* the consideration of proposals to generate innovative public and private mechanisms for financing development, without unduly burdening developing countries, and the study, in the appropriate forums, of the results of the analysis requested from the Secretary-General on possible innovative sources of finance, taking note of the proposal to use special drawing rights allocations for development purposes, bearing in mind that any assessment of special drawing rights allocations must respect the Articles of Agreement of the International Monetary Fund and the established rules of procedure of the Fund, which requires taking into account the global need for liquidity at the international level;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "International financial system and development".

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.5)*]

58/203. External debt crisis and development

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 51/164 of 16 December 1996, 52/185 of 18 December 1997, 53/175 of 15 December 1998, 54/202 of 22 December 1999, 55/184 of 20 December 2000, 56/184 of 21 December 2001 and 57/240 of 20 December 2002 on enhancing international cooperation towards a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[1]

Reaffirming the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[2] which recognizes sustainable debt financing as an important element for mobilizing resources for public and private investment,

Recalling its resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields,

Concerned that the current global economic recovery is uneven but determined to ensure that it leads to sustained world economic growth, to sustainable development and to a durable solution of the external debt problems of developing countries,

Noting in this regard that the total debt stock of the developing countries rose from 1,421.6 billion dollars in 1990 to 2,384.2 billion dollars in 2002,

Noting with great concern that the continuing debt and debt-servicing problems of the heavily indebted poor developing countries constitute one of the many elements that adversely affect their sustainable development efforts, and bearing in mind their impact on the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration,

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[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

Noting with concern the fact that some highly indebted, low- and middle-income developing countries continue to face serious difficulties in meeting their external debt-servicing obligations, which constitutes an element that seriously constrains their efforts to ensure sustained economic growth and sustainable development,

Noting that, in 2002, developing countries as a whole made net outward transfers of financial resources for the sixth consecutive year, and underscoring the need for measures, as appropriate, at the national and international levels to address this issue to enhance the prospects for debt sustainability, while noting also the fact that for some developing countries those transfers, at the present time, indicate positive developments in the trade balance, and were required, inter alia, for debt repayment,

Convinced that enhanced market access for goods and services of export interest to developing countries contributes significantly to debt sustainability in developing countries,

Welcoming the positive impact of the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, while recognizing that significant challenges remain, and inviting all developed bilateral creditors to forgive on a unilateral basis up to 100 per cent of all remaining claims after HIPC debt relief,

Welcoming also the actions taken by creditor countries within the framework of the Paris Club and by some creditor countries through the cancellation of bilateral debts, urging all creditor countries to participate in efforts to remedy the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, and noting the Evian Approach of the Paris Club of October 2003 and that debt relief does not replace alternative sources of financing,

Emphasizing the important role that private sector creditors play in debt relief and debt sustainability,

Welcoming the call in the communiqué issued by the joint International Monetary Fund/World Bank Development Committee on 22 September 2003 in Dubai urging all official and commercial creditors to participate in the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative,

Recognizing the current debate on sovereign debt restructuring, especially the efforts led by sovereign debtors and private creditors to develop a voluntary code of conduct, and stressing that modalities for sovereign debt restructuring should be voluntary, market-friendly and flexible, with due consideration of the specific circumstances of individual countries, and should result from the participation of all relevant stakeholders,

Noting the increasing voluntary use of collective action clauses in sovereign bond contracts by both developing and developed countries,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Reaffirms* the determination, as expressed in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] to deal comprehensively and effectively with the debt problems of low- and middle-income developing countries, through various national and international measures designed to make their debt sustainable in the long term;

[3] A/58/290.

3. *Emphasizes* that the international financial system, along with enhanced official and private external financing and foreign direct investment, are key elements for a durable solution to the external debt problems of developing countries;

4. *Stresses* that sustainable debt financing is an important element for mobilizing resources for public and private investment, and that national comprehensive strategies to monitor and manage the external liabilities embedded in the domestic preconditions for debt sustainability, including sound macroeconomic policies and public resource management, are a key element in reducing national vulnerabilities;

5. *Welcomes* the World Trade Organization Working Group on Trade, Debt and Finance and its mandate to examine the relationship between trade, debt and finance so as to enhance the capacity of the multilateral trading system to contribute to a durable solution to the problem of external indebtedness of the developing and least developed countries, and to strengthen the coherence of international trade and financial policies, with a view to safeguarding the multilateral trading system from the effects of financial and monetary instability, and takes note of its report of 11 July 2003 to the General Council of the World Trade Organization;[4]

6. *Recognizes* that creditors and debtors must share the responsibility for preventing and resolving unsustainable debt situations and that debt relief can play a key role in liberating resources that should be directed towards activities consistent with attaining poverty eradication, sustainable economic growth and sustainable development and with the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration, and in this regard urges countries to direct those resources freed through debt relief, in particular through debt cancellation and reduction, towards these objectives;

7. *Stresses* that debt sustainability depends upon a confluence of many factors at the international and national levels, underscores that no single indicator should be used to make definitive judgements about debt sustainability, and emphasizes that country circumstances should be taken into account;

8. *Recalls* the call upon industrialized countries, as expressed in the Millennium Declaration, to implement the enhanced programme of debt relief for the heavily indebted poor countries without further delay and to agree to cancel all official bilateral debts of those countries in return for their making demonstrable commitments to poverty reduction, and in this regard welcomes the decision of those countries that have already taken action to do so, emphasizing that debt relief complementary to the framework should be treated as additional;

9. *Calls upon* those heavily indebted poor countries that have not already done so, to take, as soon as possible, the policy measures necessary to become eligible for the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and to reach the decision point, inter alia, through the formulation of poverty reduction strategies, where they exist;

10. *Stresses* the need to pursue, where appropriate, debt relief measures vigorously and expeditiously, by all creditors, including within the Paris and London Clubs and other relevant forums, and welcomes other bilateral initiatives

[4] WT/WGTDF/2. Available on the Internet at http://docsonline.wto.org.

that have been undertaken to reduce outstanding indebtedness, so as to contribute to debt sustainability and facilitate sustainable development;

11. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system, and invites the Bretton Woods institutions as well as the private sector to take appropriate measures and actions for the implementation of the commitments, agreements and decisions of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in particular those relating to the question of the external debt problem of developing countries, and in this regard stresses the need:

(*a*) To implement speedily, effectively and fully the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, which should be fully financed through additional resources, while stressing the need for fair, equitable and transparent burden-sharing among the international public creditor community and other donor countries, and take into consideration, as appropriate, measures to address any fundamental changes in the economic circumstances of those developing countries that have an unsustainable debt burden, including those caused by natural catastrophes, severe terms-of-trade shocks or conflict, taking into account initiatives that have been undertaken to reduce outstanding indebtedness;

(*b*) To continue to bring about a sustained commitment on the part of the heavily indebted poor countries to improvements in domestic policies and economic management, to support capacity-building for the management of financial assets and liabilities, to ensure full participation and delivery of relief by all affected creditors, to ensure adequate and sufficiently concessional financing by international financing institutions and the donor community, and to further explore options to address the difficult issues of HIPC-to-HIPC debt relief and creditor litigation;

(*c*) To continue to bring together international debtors and creditors in relevant international forums to restructure unsustainable debt in a timely and efficient manner, taking into account the need to involve the private sector in the resolution of crises;

(*d*) To acknowledge the problems of the debt sustainability of some low-income countries that are not heavily indebted, in particular those facing exceptional circumstances, and in this regard to note the tailored treatment for non-HIPC developing debtor countries adopted by the Paris Club to ensure that debt restructuring provides non-HIPC debtor countries with a debt treatment that reflects their financial needs and the objective of ensuring long-lasting debt sustainability;

(*e*) To reduce the unsustainable debt burden of developing countries through such actions as debt relief and, as appropriate, debt cancellation and other innovative mechanisms geared to comprehensively addressing the debt problems of developing countries, in particular the poorest and most heavily indebted ones;

(*f*) To encourage exploring innovative mechanisms to comprehensively address the debt problems of developing countries, including middle-income countries, and countries with economies in transition; such mechanisms may include debt-for-sustainable-development swaps, or multi-creditor debt swap arrangements, as appropriate;

(*g*) To establish effective debt-tracking mechanisms in developing countries and strengthen technical assistance for external debt management and debt tracking, including through enhanced cooperation and coordination between organizations providing assistance in this regard;

(*h*) To take steps to ensure that resources provided for debt relief do not detract from official development assistance resources intended to be available for developing countries and that the debt-relief arrangements seek to avoid imposing any unfair burden on other developing countries;

(*i*) To welcome consideration by all relevant stakeholders of an international debt-work-out mechanism, in the appropriate forums, the adoption of which should not preclude emergency financing in times of crisis, to promote fair burden-sharing and minimize moral hazard, which will engage debtors and creditors to come together to restructure unsustainable debts in a timely and efficient manner;

(*j*) To establish a set of clear principles for the management and resolution of financial crises that provide for fair burden-sharing between the public and private sectors and among debtors, creditors and investors, while recognizing that a flexible mix of instruments is needed to respond appropriately to the varying economic circumstances and capacities of different countries;

12. *Stresses* the importance of continued flexibility with regard to the eligibility criteria for the enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, in particular for countries in post-conflict situations, and the need to keep the computational procedures and assumptions underlying debt sustainability analysis under review;

13. *Emphasizes* the need to help bring about initial recovery in heavily indebted poor post-conflict countries, in coordination with the international financial institutions, to help clear, as appropriate, the arrears of those countries vis-à-vis international financial institutions;

14. *Reaffirms* that reviews of debt sustainability should also bear in mind the impact of debt relief on progress towards the achievement of the development goals set out in the Millennium Declaration and the fact that debt sustainability analysis at the completion point needs to take into account any change in the global growth prospects or in the terms of trade, especially for commodity export developing countries;

15. *Notes* that it is important for the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to continue their efforts to strengthen the transparency and integrity of debt sustainability analysis and to consider any fundamental changes in countries' debt sustainability caused by natural catastrophes, severe terms-of-trade shocks or conflict when making policy recommendations, including for debt relief, as appropriate;

16. *Stresses* the need to strengthen the institutional capacity of developing countries in debt management, calls upon the international community to support the efforts made towards this end, and in this regard stresses the importance of such initiatives as the Debt Management and Financial Analysis System,[5] the International Monetary Fund and World Bank guidelines for public debt management,[6] and the debt-management capacity-building programme;

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[5] The Debt Management and Financial Analysis System is a computerized system developed by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to assist developing countries and countries with economies in transition to develop appropriate administrative, institutional and legal structures for effective foreign and domestic public debt management. By December 2002, the system had been installed in the debt offices of sixty countries in Africa, Asia, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean.

[6] See www.imf.org/external/np/mae/pdebt/2000/eng.

17. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, in cooperation with the regional banks, regional commissions and multilateral institutions, to study the possibility of creating a consultative group on external debt management aimed at developing best practices and strengthening the institutional capacity of developing countries in debt management, taking into account work that has already been done;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to include in that report a comprehensive and substantive analysis of the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, inter alia, those resulting from global financial instability;

19. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-ninth session, under the item entitled "Macroeconomic policy questions", the sub-item entitled "External debt crisis and development".

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Second Committee (A/58/481/Add.6)*]

58/204. Commodities

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 57/236 of 20 December 2002, and stressing the urgent need to ensure its full implementation,

Recalling also the United Nations Millennium Declaration adopted by heads of State and Government on 8 September 2000,[1]

Taking note of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[2] and the *Least Developed Countries Report, 2002*,[3]

Taking note also of the Ministerial Declaration of the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, held at Doha from 9 to 14 November 2001,[4]

Taking note further of the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development,[5]

Taking note of the targets set out in the Rome Declaration on World Food Security and the Plan of Action of the World Food Summit[6] and the outcome document of the World Food Summit: five years later,[7] which reaffirms the pledge to end hunger,

[1] See resolution 55/2.

[2] See A/CONF.191/13, chap. II.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.D.13.

[4] See A/C.2/56/7, annex.

[5] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[6] Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, *Report of the World Food Summit, 13-17 November 1996* (WFS 96/REP), part one, appendix.

[7] Ibid., *Report of the World Food Summit: five years later, 10-13 June 2002*, part one, appendix; see also A/57/499, annex.

Taking note also of the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[8]

Taking note further of the report of the Trade and Development Board on its fiftieth session[9] and the report of the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development on world commodity trends and prospects,[10] containing recommendations for specific actions relating to the particular needs and problems of commodity-dependent developing countries,

Mindful of the opportunity that the eleventh session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, to be held in São Paulo, Brazil, from 13 to 18 June 2004, will offer for the further consideration of proposals to address commodity issues within the framework of the links among trade, investment and finance,

Mindful also that, in 2004, the International Monetary Fund will review its role in assisting low-income countries over the medium term,

Taking note of the summary by the President of the General Assembly of the open-ended panel of the Assembly on commodities,[11]

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Meeting of Eminent Persons on Commodity Issues, held at Geneva on 22 and 23 September 2003,[12] and expresses appreciation for the work of the eminent persons;

2. *Emphasizes* the need for efforts by the developing countries that are heavily dependent on primary commodities to continue to promote a domestic policy and an institutional environment that encourage diversification and liberalization of the trade and export sectors and enhance competitiveness;

3. *Encourages* donor Governments and organizations to increase their financial and technical support for activities aimed at addressing commodity issues, in particular the needs and problems of commodity-dependent developing countries;

4. *Stresses* the importance of a speedy resumption and successful conclusion of the work programme adopted at the Fourth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization,[4] taking into account the needs of the commodity-dependent developing countries;

5. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and other relevant bodies and organs of the United Nations system to continue to mainstream and accord high priority to programmes on commodity-related issues within their respective mandates;

6. *Welcomes* regular consideration of commodity issues by the Trade and Development Board of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development;

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[8] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

[9] A/58/15 (Part V). For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 15*.

[10] A/57/381, annex.

[11] A/58/615, annex.

[12] A/58/401.

7. *Invites* non-governmental organizations, civil society and the private sector to initiate programmes of assistance and other innovative initiatives in support of commodity-dependent developing countries;

8. *Notes* the relevance to appropriate governing bodies in the United Nations system and to international commodity bodies of the report of the Meeting of Eminent Persons on Commodity Issues, as well as the summary of discussions in the Trade and Development Board and the Second Committee of the General Assembly, which highlight the importance of finding lasting solutions to the problems faced by commodity-dependent developing countries in their pursuit of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration;[1]

9. *Urges* Governments and invites international financial institutions to continue to assess the effectiveness, including the operationalization and user-friendliness, of the systems for compensatory financing of export-earnings shortfalls, and in this regard stresses the importance of empowering developing-country commodity producers to insure themselves against risk, including natural disasters;

10. *Invites* donor countries and development partners to support the efforts of commodity-dependent developing countries to add value to their products, and reiterates the importance of making progress on the Doha work programme to ensure the sustainability of those efforts;

11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to undertake further open and transparent discussions with all relevant stakeholders on enhancing the impact of the set of existing instruments to support commodity-dependent developing countries in their efforts to diversify their exports, overcome supply-side constraints, strengthen institutions and build knowledge and technical capacity;

12. *Calls upon* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and invites other relevant bodies and organs of the United Nations system, as well as other relevant international organizations, to strengthen coherently and within their respective mandates their capacity-building and technical cooperation activities in the fields of policy design and implementation, institution-building, management and utilization of commodity revenues, management of price risk and improvement of supply capacities, including the ability to satisfy quality and other requirements for market entry, and to enhance activities aimed at South-South cooperation in the field of commodities, share experiences and identify best practices for dealing with oversupply situations;

13. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development and all relevant international organizations to continue to analyse trends in commodities and their impact on the development of commodity-dependent developing countries, including on debt sustainability;

14. *Invites* the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Common Fund for Commodities and all other relevant organizations to provide useful, timely, accurate, comprehensive and user-friendly information and analysis on commodities and to enable the use of this information by commodity-dependent developing countries;

15. *Requests* the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to undertake, within existing budgetary resources, initiatives and activities to raise awareness of the commodities issue and keep it a high priority of Governments, the international community, media, academia and all other relevant stakeholders;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its fifty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the present resolution, taking into account the provisions of Assembly resolution 57/236.

78th plenary meeting
23 December 2003